

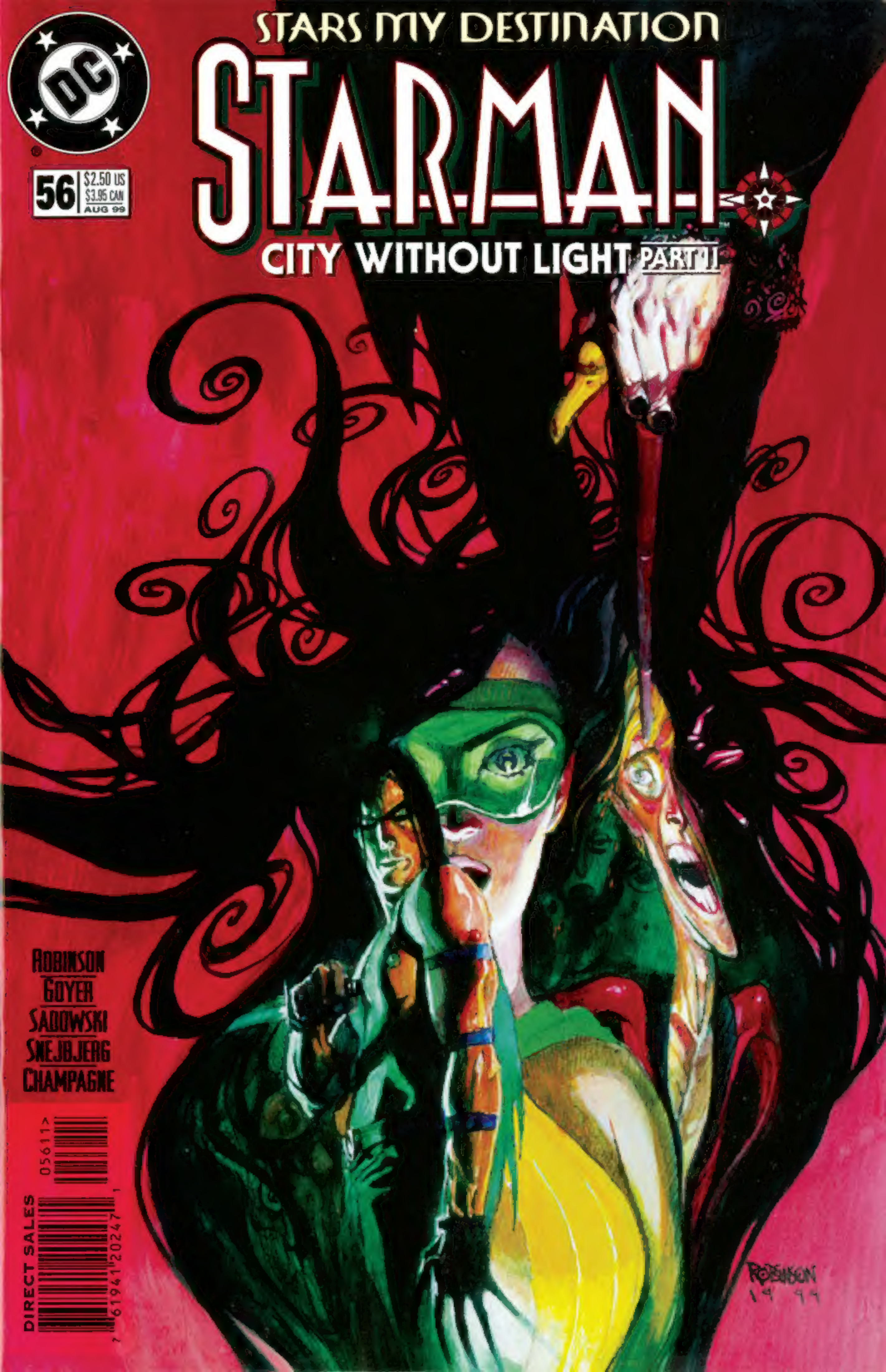


56 \$2.50 US
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STARS MY DESTINATION

STAR-MAN

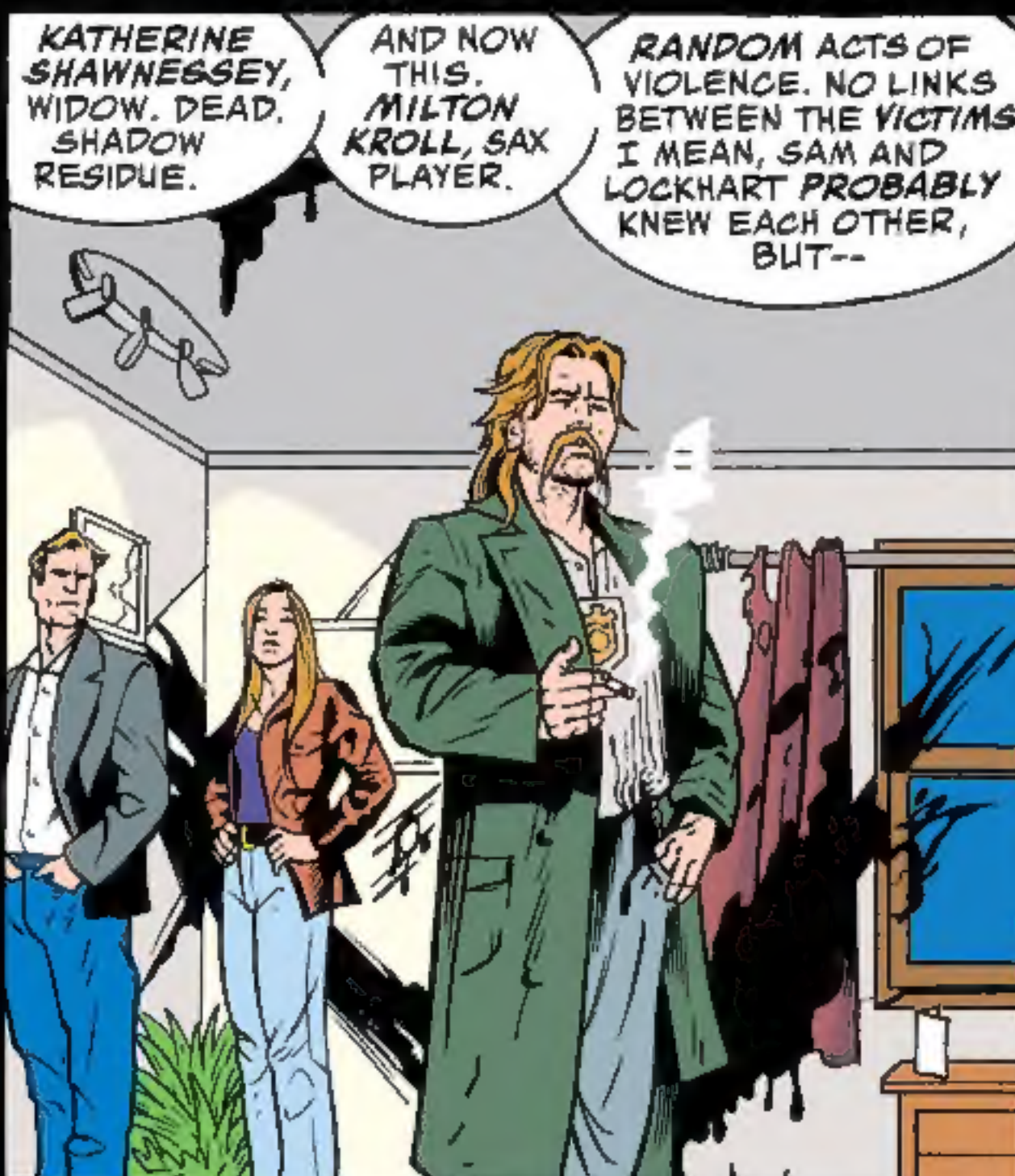
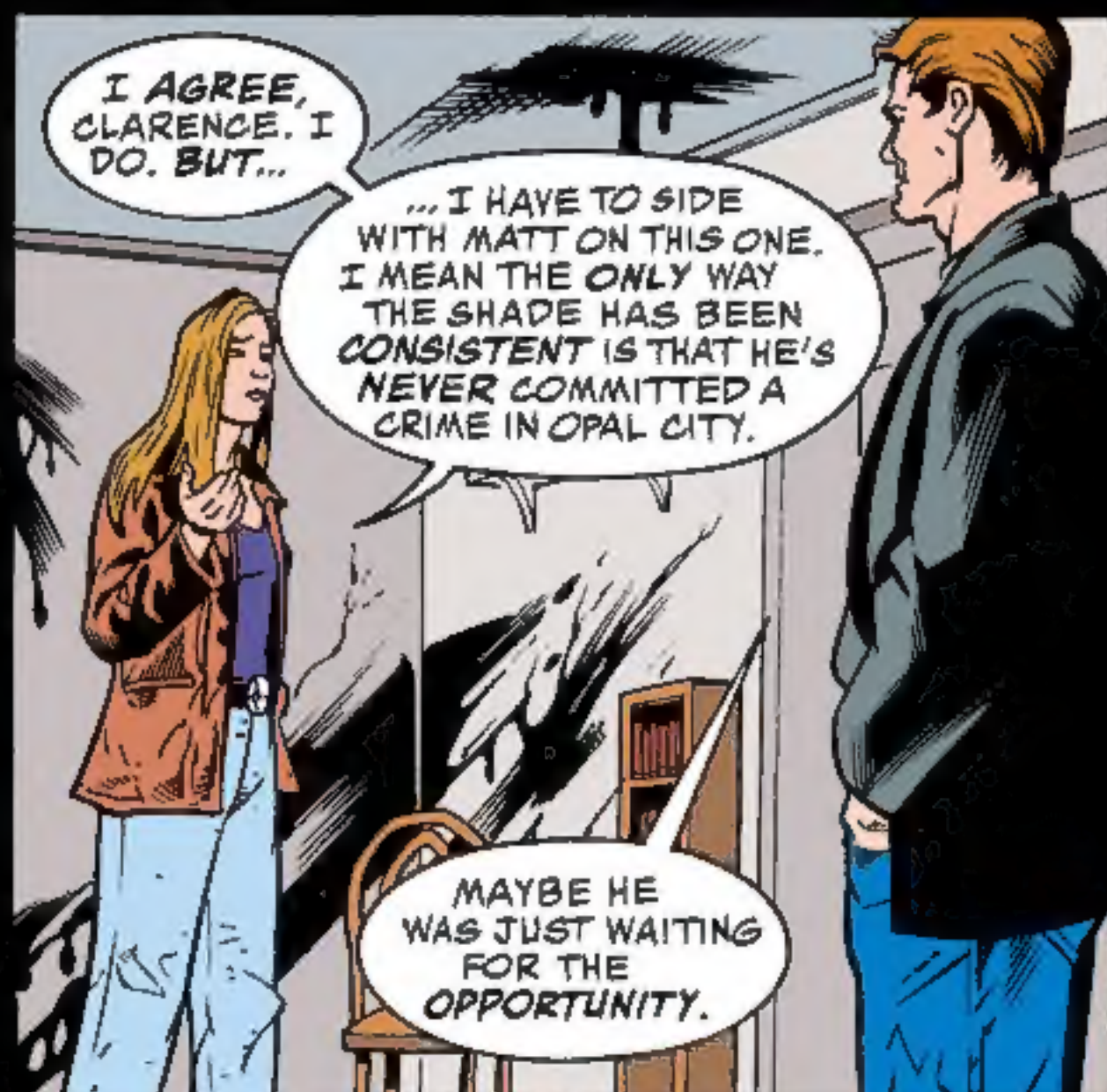
CITY WITHOUT LIGHT PART II



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CITY WITHOUT LIGHT II



ROBINSON & ROBINSON SADOWSKI CHAMPAGNE OAKLEY WRIGHT GWC TOMASI GOODWIN
GOYER-story words penciller inker letterer colorist seps editor guiding light



THIS IS WRONG.

WAY WRONG, FOR SURE. I'VE GOT TO KNOW HIM. HE LOVES THIS CITY. HE'D NEVER--

BRO, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO WEIRD OF LATE, I'M NOT SURE YOU KNOW WHAT CENTURY YOU'RE IN ANYMORE.



AND YOU, HOPE. WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE THE SHADE.

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH ALL THOSE BOOKS ON IRELAND AND THAT CRAPPY CELTIC MUSIC YOU PLAY... HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SAID "NEVER TRUST AN ENGLISHMAN"?



IS THERE A PROVISIO IN THERE? "NEVER TRUST AN ENGLISHMAN UNLESS HE'S A WEIRD IMMORTAL EX-SUPER-VILLAIN"?

I...err...



SHUT YOUR MOUTH, BARRY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE DOING ANY OF THE HUNTING ANYWAY, YOU SHIFTLESS \$#%*!

GO BACK TO YOUR DESK 'N THE PACKET OF OREOS IN THE DRAWER THERE.

DON'T GET THAT WAY WITH ME, MATTY! DON'T MAKE ME--

MAKE YOU WHAT? BREAK A SWEAT?



GIRLS, GIRLS, COOL IT.

JUST FIND ME THE SHADE.



HE MISSES HIS WIFE. THE THOUGHT OF HER AT HOME AWAITING HIM IS THE SPARK THAT KEEPS CLARENCE GOING.

WHY DOESN'T HE FEEL BETTER?



HE'S COMMISSIONER. FROM DETECTIVE TO COMMISSIONER IN TWO JUMPS. IF HE HANDLES THIS RIGHT, HE MAY EVEN GET TO KEEP THE JOB.

SO WHY DOES THE NIGHT FALL WITH GRIM WEIGHT...

...AND DARKNESS UNSEEN?



CLARENCE.

BLACK
CONDOR.



I THOUGHT YOU'D
LEFT OPAL.

I CAME BACK.
I SENSE MY WORK
HERE *ISN'T* DONE
AFTER ALL.

THAT
FEELING I TOLD
YOU I HAD... THAT
EVIL WAS LOOMING
IN THE CITY.

IT'S
HERE.



SOMETHING'S BEGINNING.
SOMETHING BAD.

HOW IS IT
STARTING, DO
YOU KNOW?

NO. BUT THE
TIME HAS PASSED
TO ASK THAT QUESTION
ANYWAY.

SO,
WHAT
SHOULD I
ASK?



"HOW WILL IT END?"

HIS BACK ITCHES. DAMN.
ITCHES THERE ARE THE
WORST... THE BACK...
PLACES HE CAN'T REACH.

AND THERE'S
NO ONE TO
SCRATCH HIM.

NOR WILL THERE
EVER BE.

THE
BURNING
MAN
WATCHES.



OH, TO END THIS VIGIL. OH,
TO ENTER THAT PLACE AND
KILL THE OLD MAN WHO
DWELLS WITHIN.

BUT THE ONE WHO LEADS HIM
SAYS HE MUST WAIT.



WATCH.

WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT,
THE OLD MAN'S FLESH WILL
PEEL FROM HIS BONES, A
BOILING JELLIED SLOP.



THEN, AS THE RADIATION BURNED
DEEPER STILL INTO THE OLD
MAN'S BODY, SO HIS BONES
WILL FLAKE TO CHARCOAL.

AND ON, UNTIL THE MAN IS DUST,
AND A BLACKENED SHADOW OF THE
PLACE WHERE HE STOOD.



THAT DAY... OR NIGHT,
THE BURNING MAN
REALLY HAS NO PREF-
ERENCE... WILL COME.
SOON. HE'S BEEN
ASSURED OF THIS.



UNTIL THEN, A LUNGFUL OF
MENTHOL WILL HAVE TO
CONTENT HIM.

DR. PHOSPHORUS
SMILES...

...REALIZING THE ITCH
ON HIS BACK HAS GONE
AWAY ALL BY ITSELF.





SO THE LONG,
THE SHORT AND
THE TALL OF IT,
TED, IS...

...WELL...

...I'M INNOCENT
OF EVERYTHING.
THE RASH OF
KILLINGS. I KNOW
ABOUT THE SHADOW
FABRIC FOUND
AT EACH
SLAUGHTER...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND



...THE SHADOW FABRIC.
UM, HOW WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE IT? ...THE
STICKY, BLACK
GOO...

AH, INDEED.
THAT "GOO"
APPEARS TO BE
THE CHIEF EVIDENCE
AGAINST YOU.

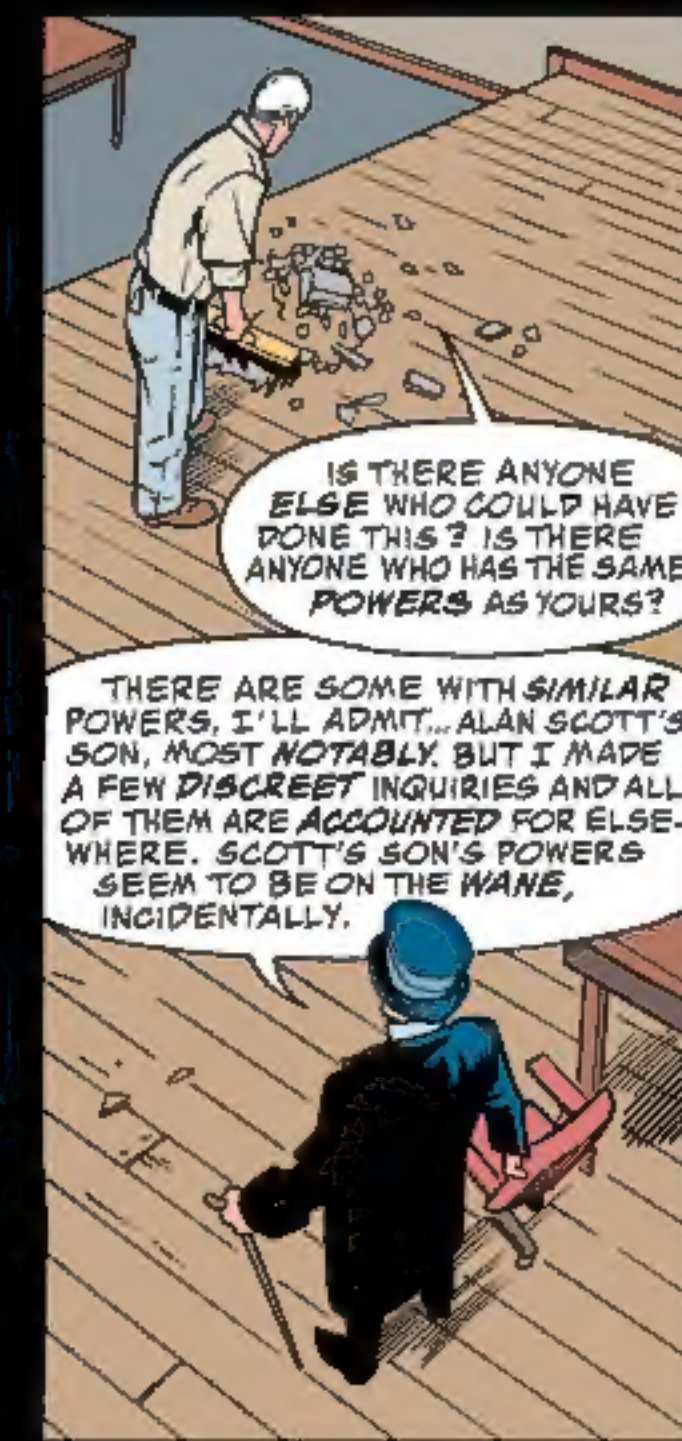


YOU KNOW THAT ONE
OF THE POLICE FORENSIC
SCIENTISTS PUT A LITTLE OF
IT ON A SLIDE, LOOKED AT IT
UNDER A MICROSCOPE AND
HAS BEEN IN A PSYCHIATRIC
WARD EVER SINCE.

YES, I HEARD
THAT, THOUGH I THOUGHT
THE STORY A NEW URBAN
LEGEND THAT HAD SPRUNG
UP IN LIGHT OF THIS.



NOT
THAT THIS
HAS MUCH
LIGHT.



IS THERE ANYONE
ELSE WHO COULD HAVE
DONE THIS? IS THERE
ANYONE WHO HAS THE SAME
POWERS AS YOURS?

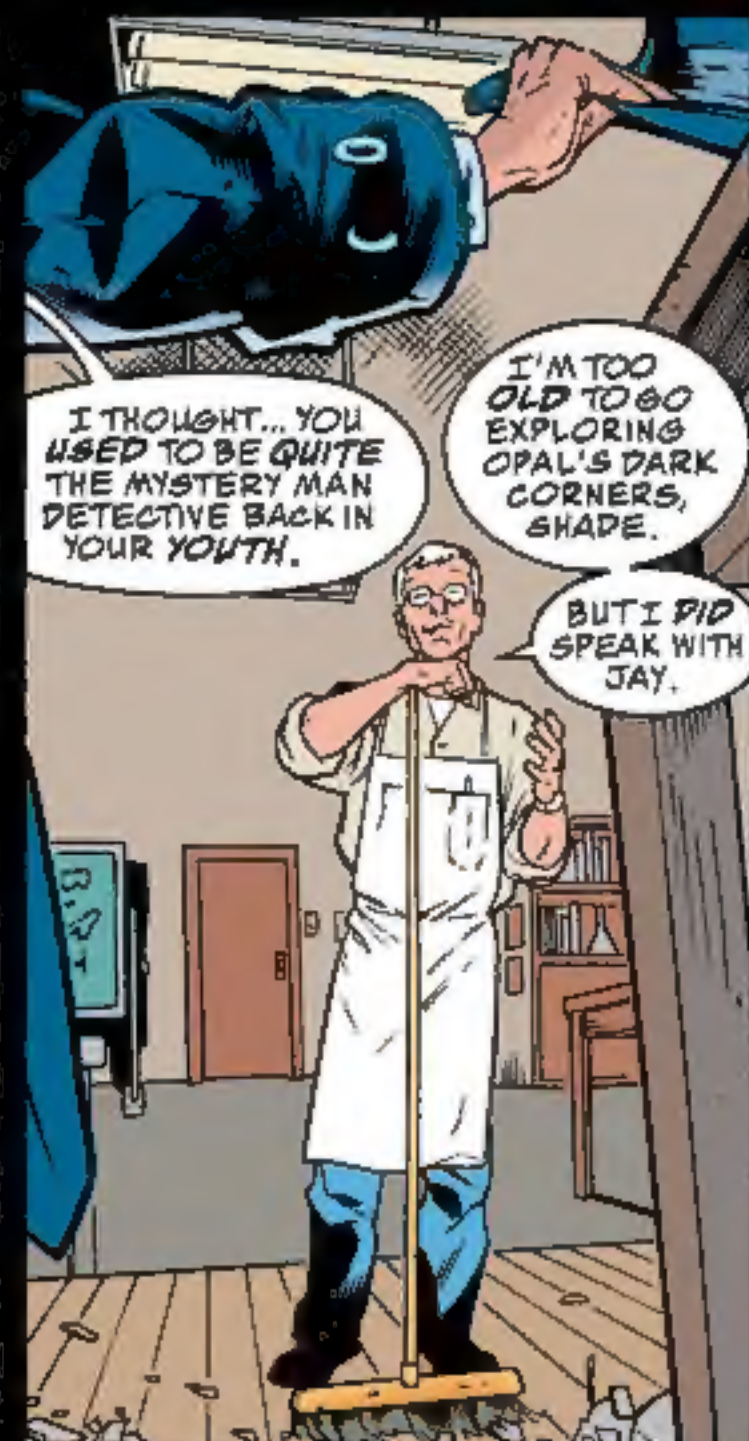
THERE ARE SOME WITH SIMILAR
POWERS. I'LL ADMIT... ALAN SCOTT'S
SON, MOST NOTABLY. BUT I MADE
A FEW DISCREET INQUIRIES AND ALL
OF THEM ARE ACCOUNTED FOR ELSE-
WHERE. SCOTT'S SON'S POWERS
SEEM TO BE ON THE WANE,
INCIDENTALLY.



YOU COULD LEAVE OPAL.
WAIT FOR JACK TO
RETURN. HE'LL SORT
IT OUT. OR PERHAPS THE
MYSTERY WILL SOLVE
ITSELF IN THAT TIME.

WE BOTH KNOW
JACK MAY NOT
RETURN ANY
TIME SOON.

AND OPAL IS
MY HOME, TED.
I'M NOT RUN-
NING FROM IT.
IT'S THE PLACE I
RUN TO.



I THOUGHT... YOU
USED TO BE QUITE
THE MYSTERY MAN
DETECTIVE BACK IN
YOUR YOUTH.

I'M TOO
OLD TO GO
EXPLORING
OPAL'S DARK
CORNERS,
SHADE.

BUT I DID
SPEAK WITH JAY.



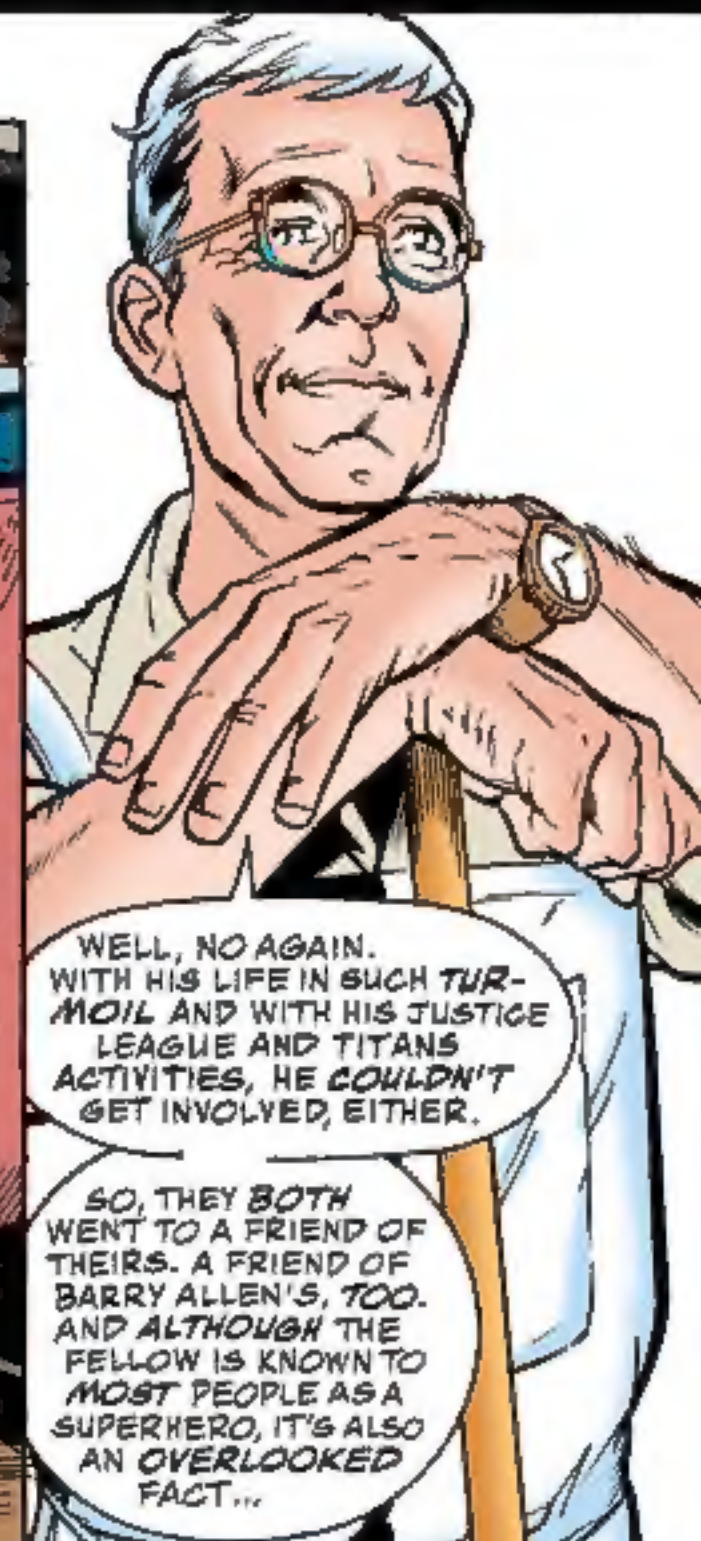
JAY
BARRICK'S
COMING TO
HELP?



JAY? NO. HE FELT YOU HAD TOO
MUCH OF A HISTORY TOGETHER FOR
HIM TO REMAIN OBJECTIVE.

HOWEVER, HE HASN'T
FORGOTTEN HOW YOU SAVED
HIS LIFE IN '51, SO HE CON-
TACTED THE NEW FLASH.

HE'S COMING?



WELL, NO AGAIN.
WITH HIS LIFE IN SUCH TUR-
MOIL AND WITH HIS JUSTICE
LEAGUE AND TITANS
ACTIVITIES, HE COULDN'T
GET INVOLVED, EITHER.

SO, THEY BOTH
WENT TO A FRIEND OF
THEIRS. A FRIEND OF
BARRY ALLEN'S, TOO.
AND ALTHOUGH THE
FELLOW IS KNOWN TO
MOST PEOPLE AS A
SUPERHERO, IT'S ALSO
AN OVERLOOKED
FACT...

"... HE'S ONE OF THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
DETECTIVES."

WHAT IS
IT, HONEY?

I'M NOT
SURE.

IT'S NEVER
HAPPENED THIS
WAY BEFORE.

USUALLY I HAVE TO
SEE THE MYSTERY
IN SOMETHING
FIRST.

YEAH,
DON'T I
KNOW IT.

BUT THIS TIME
ALL I HAVE TO DO
IS STAND HERE,
LOOKING AT OPAL.
TAKING IN ITS SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS AND
SMELLS...

... AND I
SENSE A
MYSTERY.

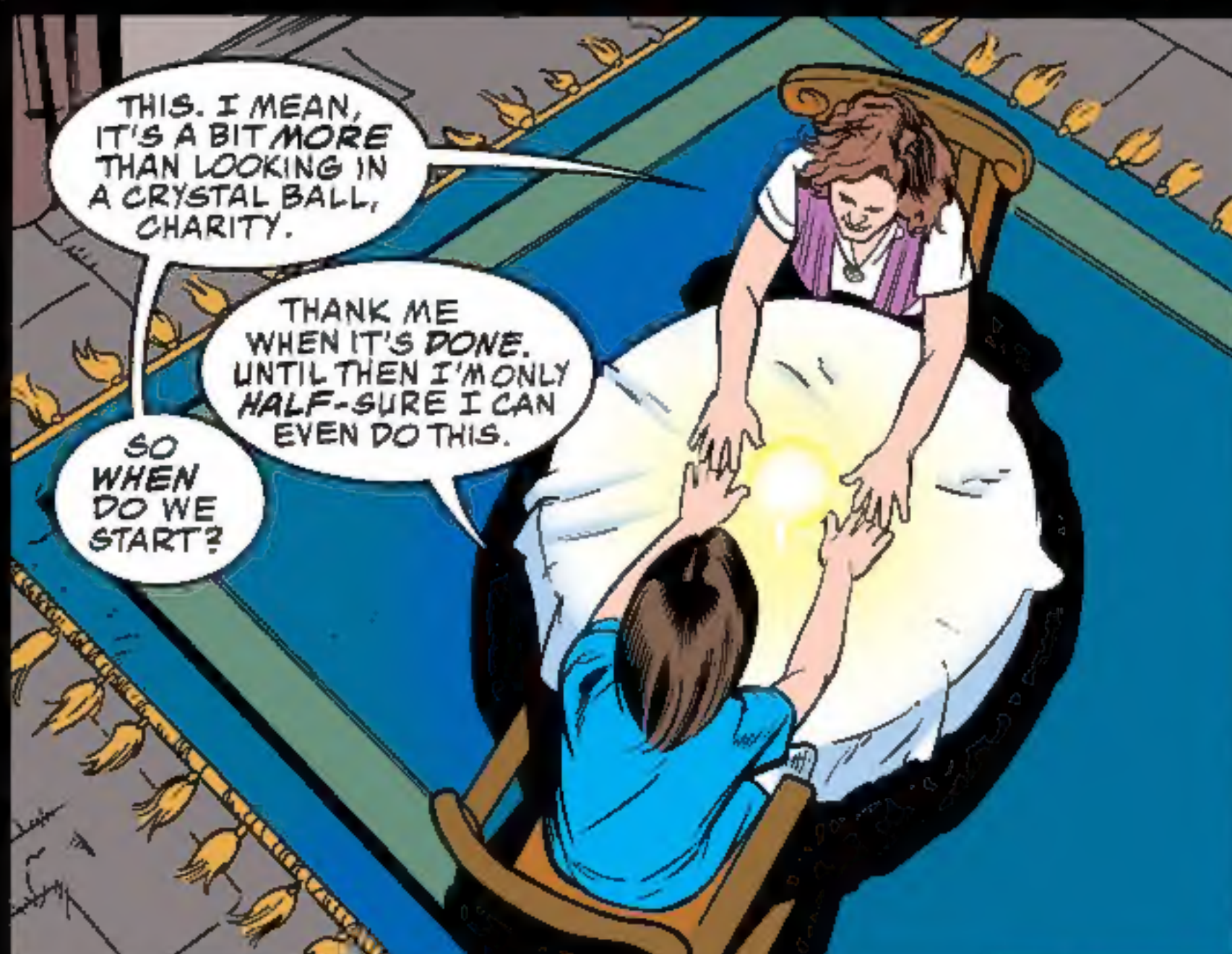
SO, WE'RE
STAYING HERE
FOR A WHILE,
RALPH...?

YEAH,
UNPACK YOUR
BAG, SUE.
OPAL CITY AND
THE ELONGATED
MAN ARE GOING
TO MAKE
FRIENDS.



THANK YOU.

FOR WHAT?



THIS. I MEAN, IT'S A BIT MORE THAN LOOKING IN A CRYSTAL BALL, CHARITY.

THANK ME WHEN IT'S DONE. UNTIL THEN I'M ONLY HALF-SURE I CAN EVEN DO THIS.

SO WHEN DO WE START?



WE ALREADY HAVE. I'VE BEEN CALLING OUT TO THOSE BEYOND FOR THE LAST HALF AN HOUR.

ISN'T THERE STUFF WE SHOULD SAY?

WHAT, "HEAR ME, O SPIRITS, COME TO ME, KNOCK THREE TIMES ON THE CEILING IF YOU WANT ME"?



THAT'S HOOEY FOR RUBES.

NO, IF I THINK IT, HE WILL COME... TO PARAPHRASE THE MOVIE...

NOW QUIET...



... I NEED TO CONCENTRATE.







err...
HI.

IT'S
ME.



I KNOW YOUR
FACE.

MY NAME'S
SADIE, MR. BLACK
PIRATE. I'M JACK
KNIGHT'S FIANCEE.

KNIGHT'S BETROTHED.
AYE, WE MET A WHILE
GONE. YOU TOLD ME HE'D
LEFT FOR THE STARS.



HAS HE
RETURNED
TO PORT?

NO.

DAMNATION
MINE. I YEARN TO BE
FREE OF THIS CITY.
I'D DARED TO HOPE
THIS SUMMONS WAS--



THAT'S THE THING, MR.
PIRATE... UM... I MEAN,
SON. I THOUGHT ABOUT
IT... HOW JACK HAS GONE
INTO SPACE TO FIND
MY BROTHER.

AND THEN I
DREAMED ABOUT HIM.
IT MADE ME REALIZE,
IF HE'S DOING WHAT HE
CAN FOR ME, I NEED
TO DO THE SAME
FOR HIM.



AND
WHERE DOES
THAT LEAVE
US?

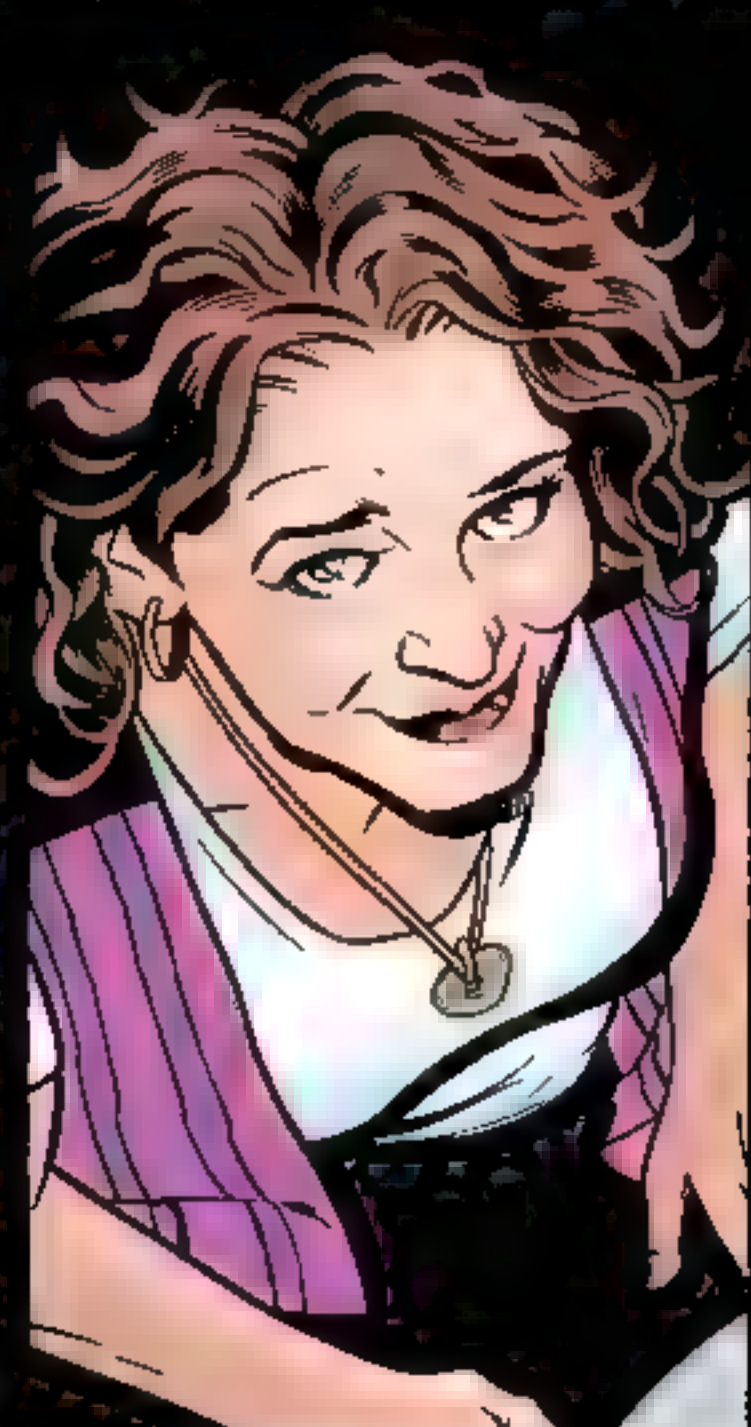
JACK OWES YOU
HIS LIFE? THEN I OWE
YOU, TOO. I WANT TO HELP
YOU. I WANT TO FIND THE
PROOF OF YOUR INNOCENCE
... PROOF THAT YOU DIDN'T
KILL YOUR OWN SON, SO
YOU'LL BE FREE OF YOUR
CURSE TO HAUNT
THE CITY.

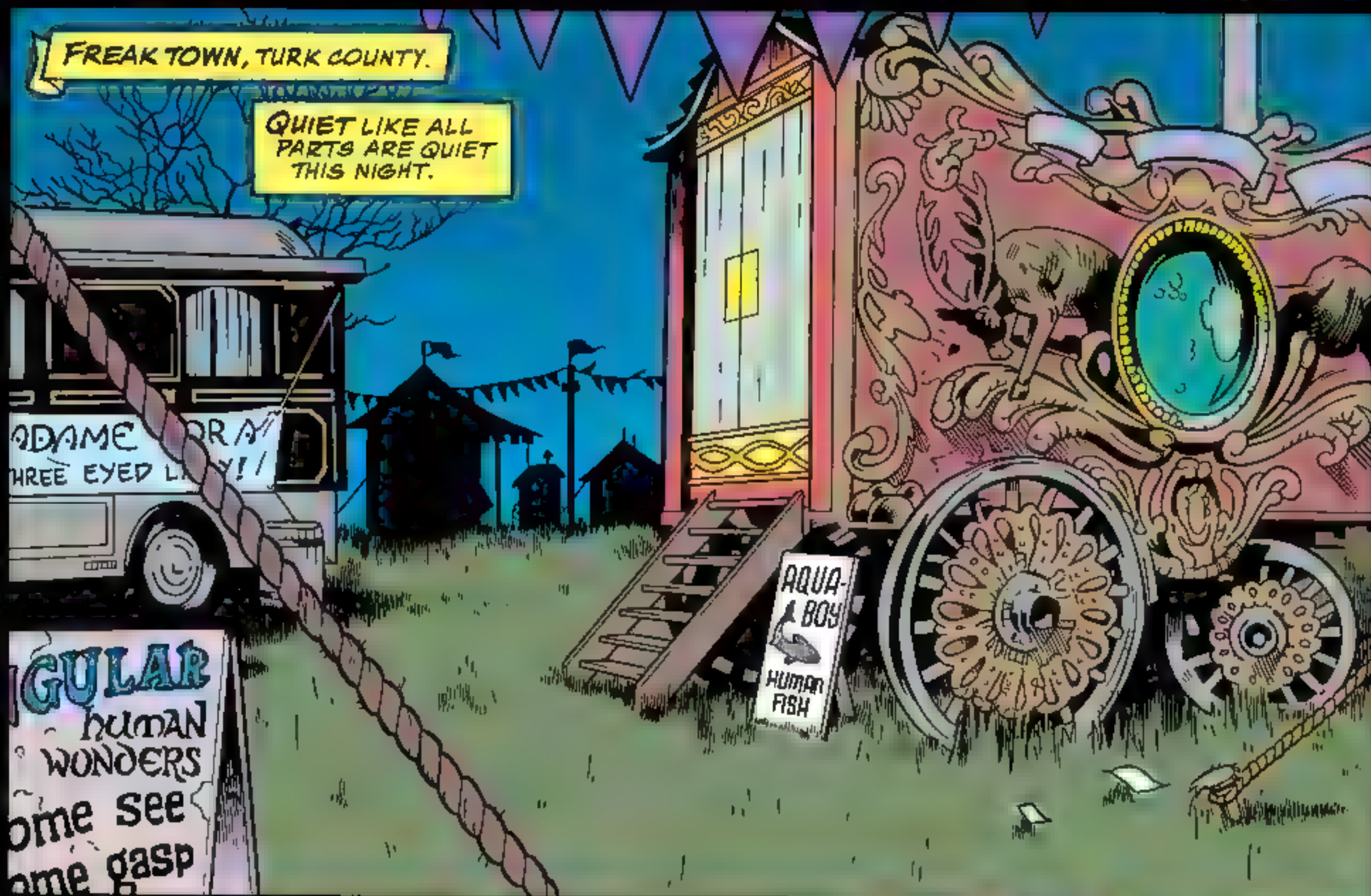
YOU
CAN GO
ON FROM HERE
BE FREE.



YOU WANT
TO HELP? ARE
YOU ABLE?

ALL I ASK
IS YOU GIVE ME
THE CHANCE TO
SHOW YOU.







YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK I'M ENJOYING THIS.

THEN STO--

SORRY, HONEY, I CAN'T. NOT UNTIL YOU AGREE TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT.

WHAK



I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'--

KRAK

DOUBLE NEGATIVE. YOU DESERVE A SLAP FOR THAT ALONE.



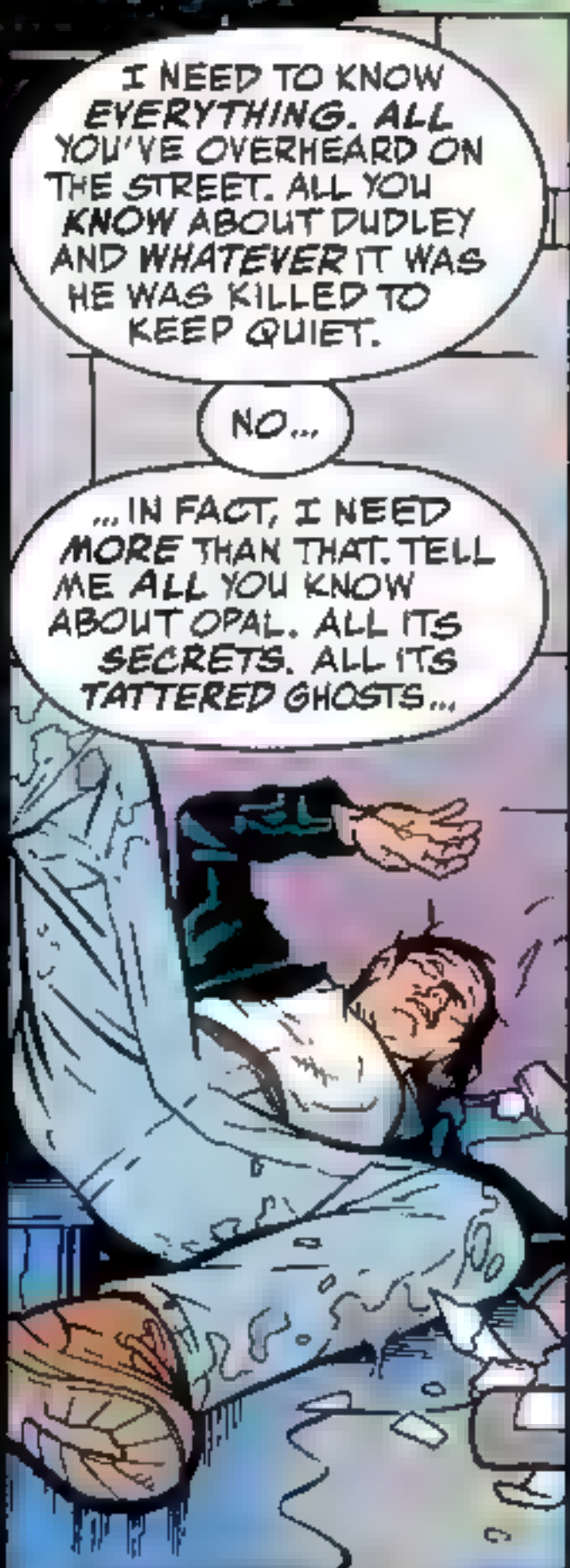
... AND STRAY PHANTOMS.



PLEASE STOP!

SLAP

I WILL WHEN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT DUDLEY DONOVAN'S MURDER.



I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING. ALL YOU'VE OVERHEARD ON THE STREET. ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT DUDLEY AND WHATEVER IT WAS HE WAS KILLED TO KEEP QUIET.

NO...

... IN FACT, I NEED MORE THAN THAT. TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT OPAL. ALL ITS SECRETS. ALL ITS TATTERED GHOSTS...





LATER.

AND IF YOU
TELL ANYONE
ABOUT THIS--

DON'T WORRY,
I'VE ALREADY
FORGOTTEN IT.



PHANTOM
LADY.

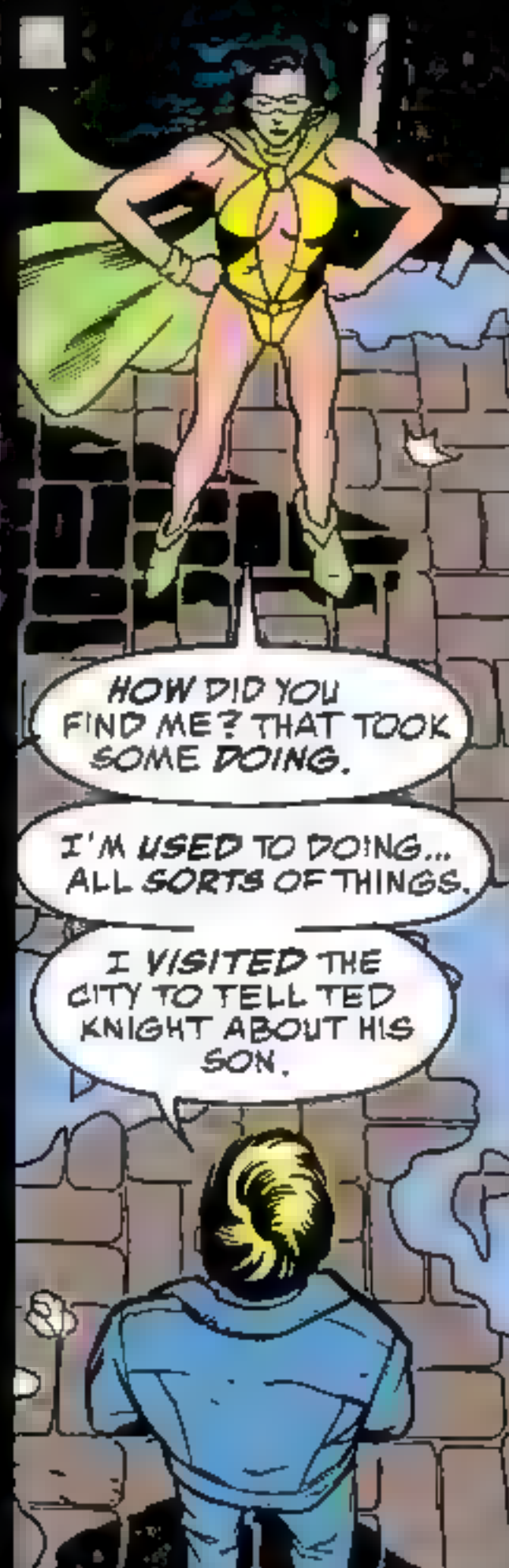
WHO?



WE
NEED TO
TALK.

DO
I KNOW
YOU?

I
DOUBT
IT.



HOW DID YOU
FIND ME? THAT TOOK
SOME DOING.

I'M USED TO DOING...
ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

I VISITED THE
CITY TO TELL TED
KNIGHT ABOUT HIS
SON.

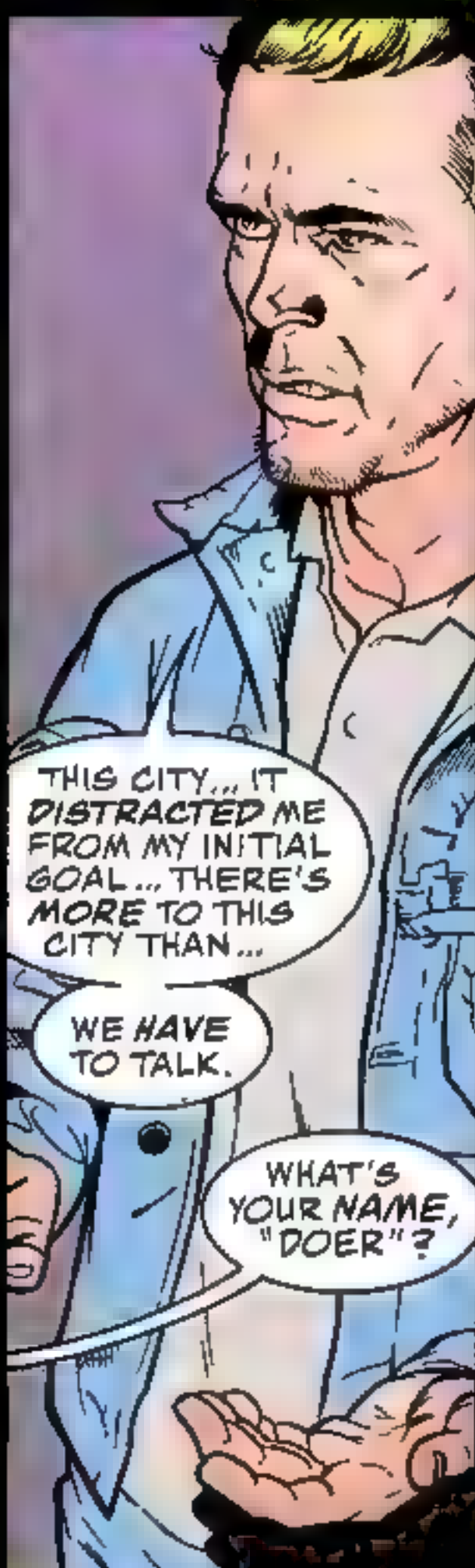


IN SPACE?

JACK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S ALIVE. AT
LEAST HE WAS
THE LAST I SAW
OF HIM.

WAS TED
HAPPY TO
HEAR IT?

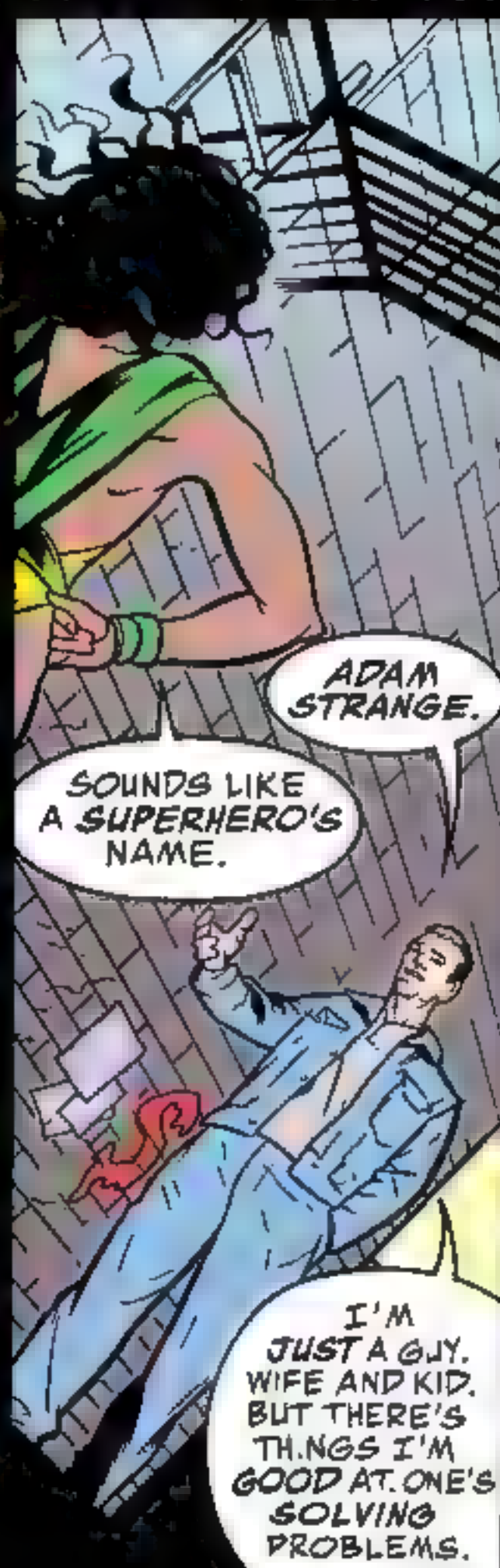
I HAVEN'T
SPOKEN TO HIM.



THIS CITY... IT
DISTRACTED ME
FROM MY INITIAL
GOAL... THERE'S
MORE TO THIS
CITY THAN...

WE HAVE
TO TALK.

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
"DOER"?



ADAM
STRANGE.

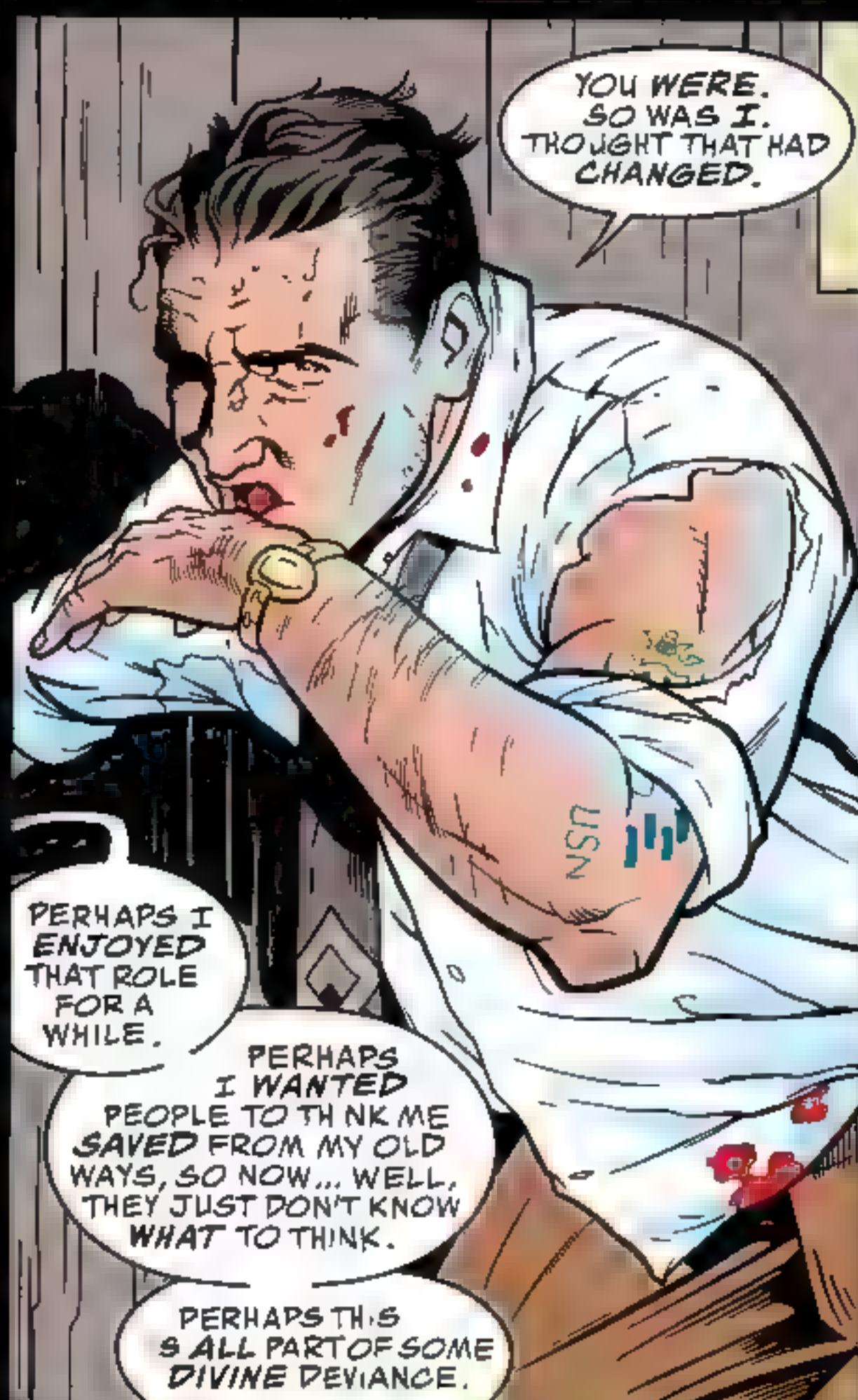
SOUNDS LIKE
A SUPERHERO'S
NAME.

I'M
JUST A GUY.
WIFE AND KID.
BUT THERE'S
THINGS I'M
GOOD AT. ONE'S
SOLVING
PROBLEMS.



GOOD...

... BECAUSE
I FEAR OPAL'S
GOT MORE THAN
ITS SHARE.





SPACE. DEEP SPACE.
ALSO AS BLACK AS
THE NIGHT.

WHY ARE YOU
SMILING, JACK?

I WAS JUST THINKING, IS ALL.
RECALLING EARTH. THINKING
OF THINGS THAT--

THINKING OF SADIE
... HER SMILE AND
TOUCH.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT *NIGHT OF THE
HUNTER*... BOBBY THE MITCH IN *NIGHT OF
THE HUNTER*. YOU KNOW THAT WAS THE
ONLY TIME LAUGHTON DIRECTED? I
WONDER WHY.

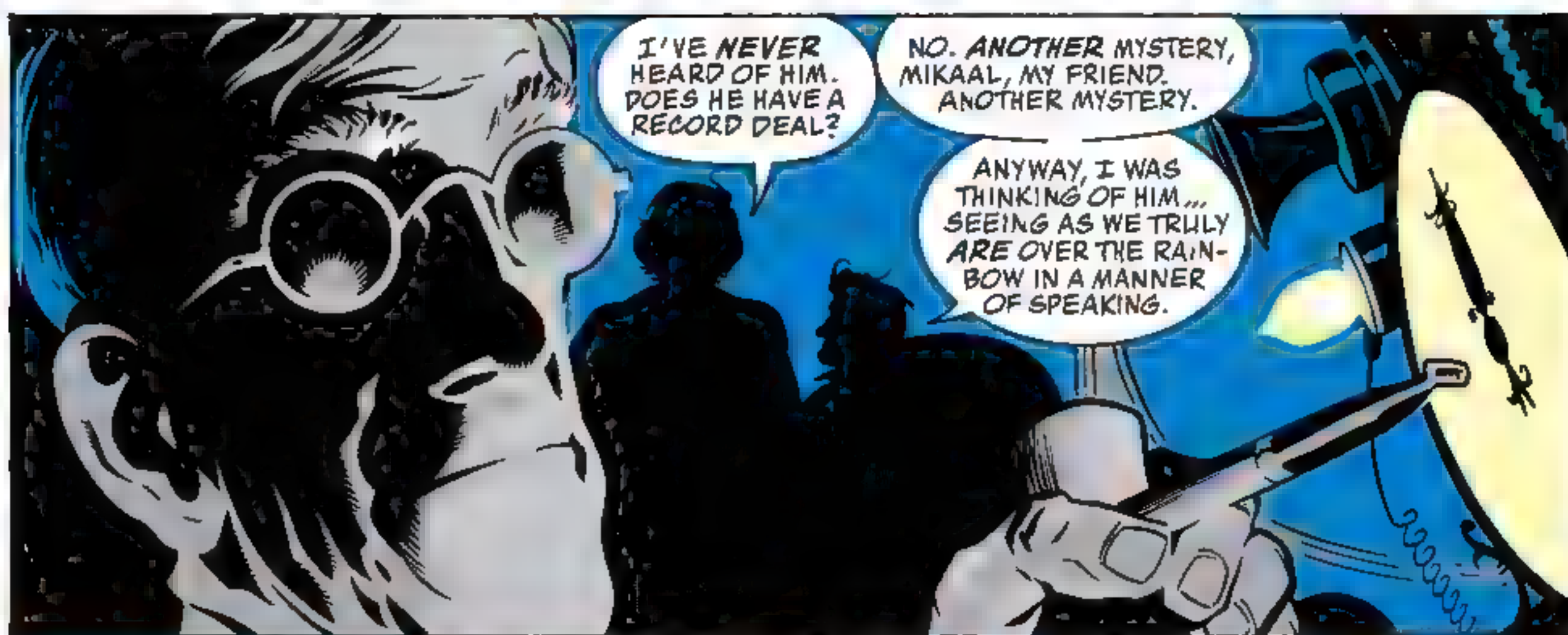
SAME WITH *ELEKTRA
GLIDE IN BLUE*. AS FAR
AS I KNOW, THAT WAS THE
ONLY FLICK THAT GUY
DID, TOO. A MYSTERY.

MAYBE THEY
BOTH KNEW TO
GET OUT WHILE
THEY WERE
AHEAD.

COULD
BE.

I WAS REMEMBERING A TRIP
TO L.A., TOO. I CAUGHT THIS
GUY AT A JAZZ CLUB. PRESTON
SMITH. GUITARIST... JAZZ AND
BLUES... REAL VERSATILE.
COOLEST GUY I'VE SEEN
PERFORM IN... I DON'T
KNOW HOW LONG.

HIS VERSION OF
"OVER THE RAINBOW"
...S ENOUGH TO
MAKE YOU WEEP.



I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF HIM.
DOES HE HAVE A
RECORD DEAL?

NO. ANOTHER MYSTERY,
MIKAAL, MY FRIEND.
ANOTHER MYSTERY.

ANYWAY, I WAS
THINKING OF HIM...
SEEING AS WE TRULY
ARE OVER THE RAIN-
BOW IN A MANNER
OF SPEAKING.



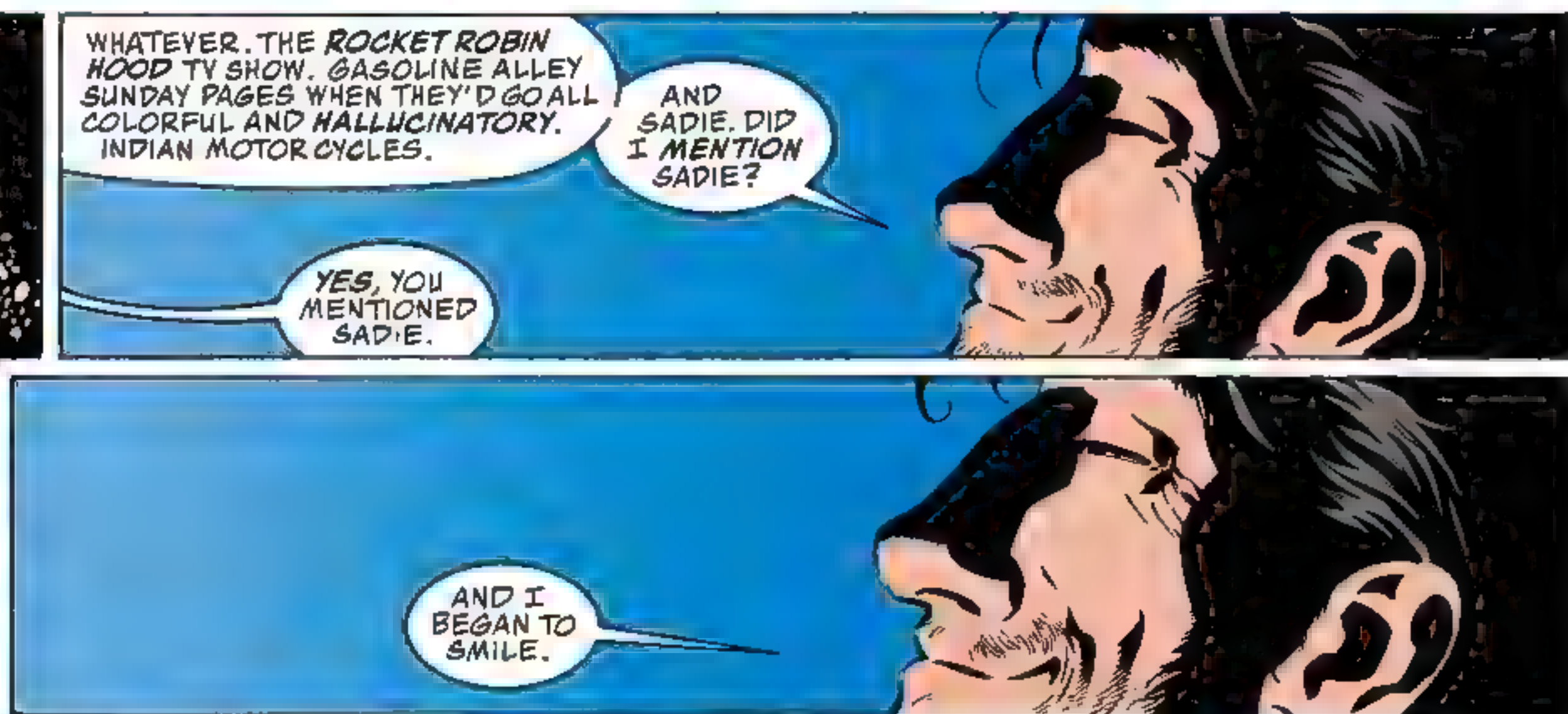
I WAS THINKING OF SADIE.
ROBERT MITCHUM. THIS GUY
PRESTON SMITH. JACKSON
POLLOCK. THE EAMES
LOUNGE CHAIR... YOU KNOW,
THE ONE WITH THE
OTTOMAN?

NO.

WHATEVER. THE ROCKET ROBIN
HOOD TV SHOW. GASOLINE ALLEY
SUNDAY PAGES WHEN THEY'D GO ALL
COLORFUL AND HALLUCINATORY.
INDIAN MOTOR CYCLES.

AND
SADIE. DID
I MENTION
SADIE?

YES, YOU
MENTIONED
SADIE.



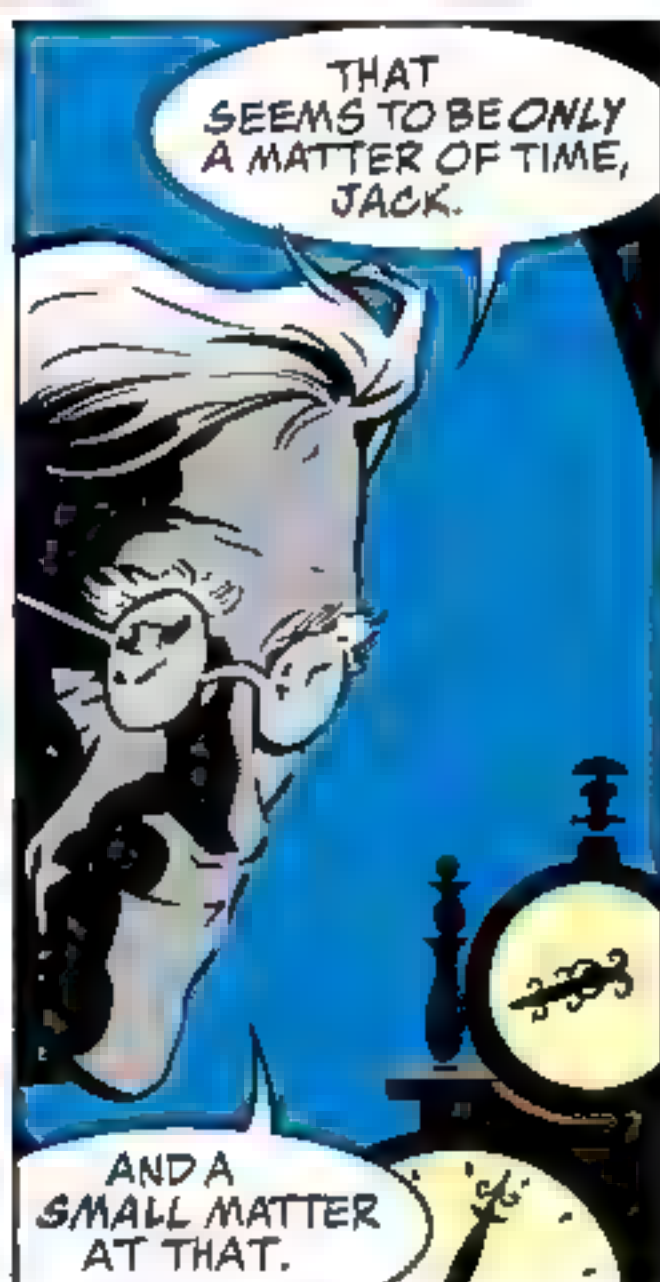
AND I
BEGAN TO
SMILE.



THE SMILE STAYS WHEN I
THINK ABOUT ALL WE'VE DONE,
TOO... ALL WE'VE SEEN. THE
PAST AND THE FUTURE. GRUNDY.
THE BLUE PLANET. THE FRIENDS
WE MADE ON RANN.

NOW, ALL
WE HAVE TO
DO IS FIND
PAYTON...

AND
WE'VE
DONE IT
ALL!



THAT
SEEMS TO BE ONLY
A MATTER OF TIME,
JACK.

AND A
SMALL MATTER
AT THAT.



HUH?

DO YOU
SEE THAT
PLANET?

COULDN'T
HELP BUT.

THAT'S
KRANALTINE--
THRENEWORLD.

IT'S THE
MAIN PLANET
OF CROWN
IMPERIAL.

CROWN IMPERIAL?

AN EMPIRE OF A
THOUSAND PLANETS. IT'S KEPT
TO ITSELF, PRETTY MUCH. SO
MUCH SO THAT MY DATA OF IT
DOESN'T EXTEND BEYOND THE
REIGN ON RILSOM THE 18TH,
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE THERE
MUST BE A NEW RULER
SINCE THEN.

BUT ISN'T THIS THE
PLANET ADAM STRANGE
SAID RANN WAS FIGHTING
A COLD WAR WITH?

SO, WHAT'S
THAT GOT TO DO
WITH WILL
PAYTON?

HIS
ENERGY SIGNAL.
IT'S REGISTERING
OFF THE SCALE.
EMANATING FROM
KRANALTINE.



SO IT'S ALMOST
OVER.

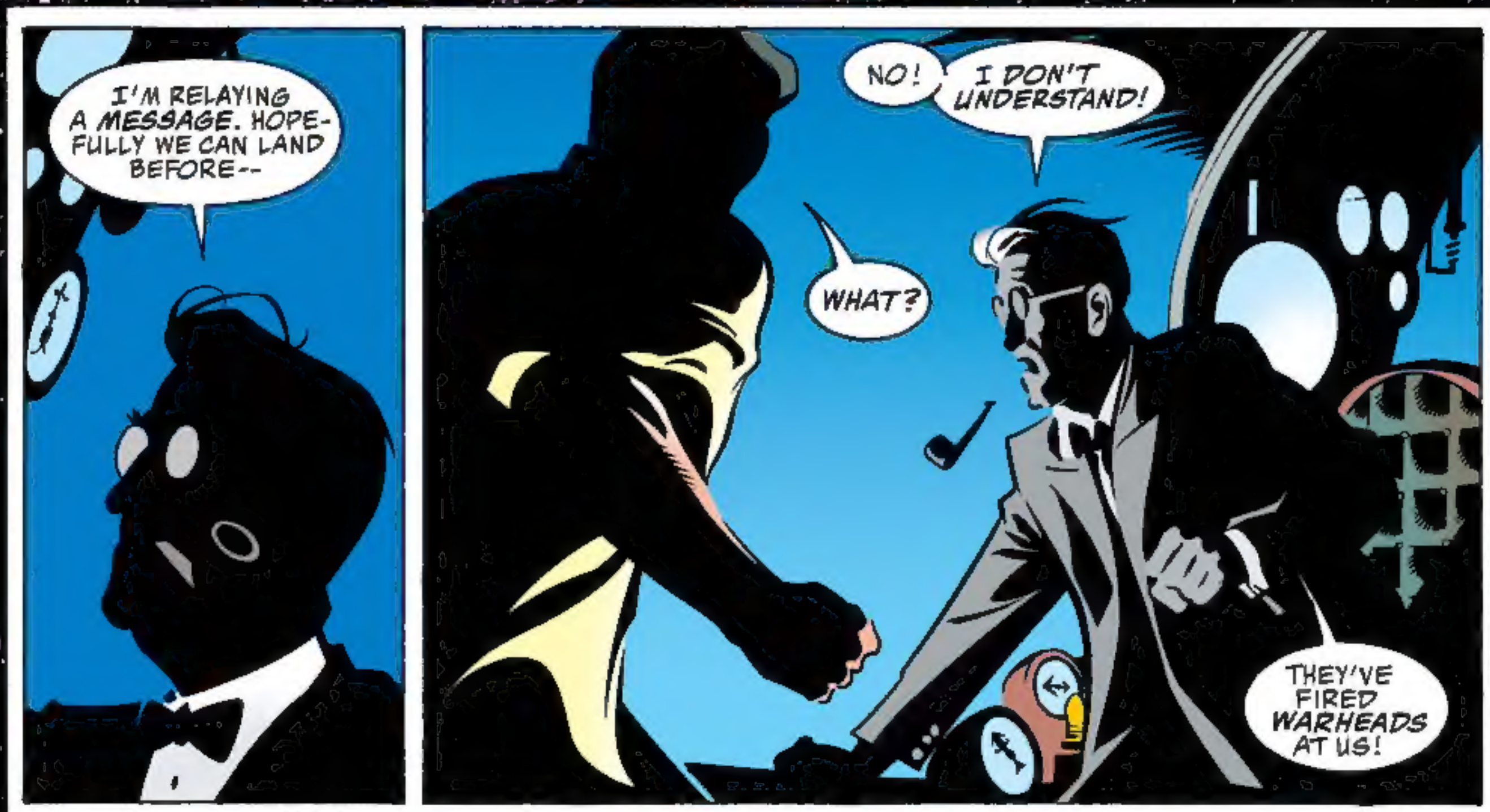
WE INTRODUCE OUR-
SELVES. WE KEEP THE FACT
WE'RE BJDs WITH ADAM
STRANGE QUIET. WE ASK TO
SEE PAYTON. WE TAKE HIM HOME.

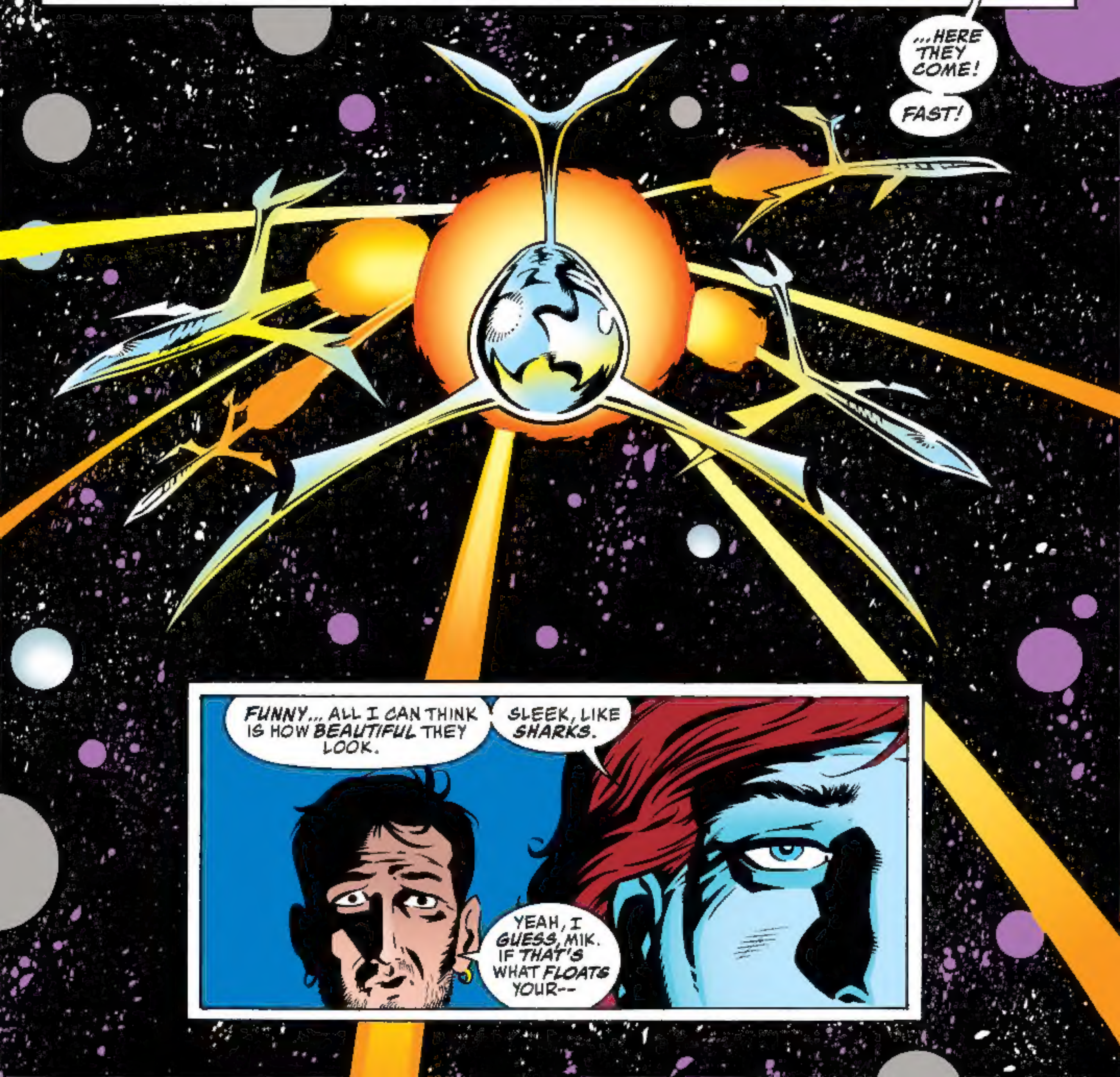


SLAP!

I SEE MY
SADIE AGAIN

AND I SEE
MY TONY.







BOOM!

TO BE CONTINUED!

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP